

Dog Group Wants More Teeth

By ELIZABETH NOLLNER

A local citizens group formed to repeal the ban of dogs on Duxbury Beach wants to put more teeth into existing leash laws as an alternative to an outright canine ban.

The Beach Access Rights Committee (B.A.R.C.), will present their proposal to the Duxbury Selectmen at next Tuesday's meeting.

Nancy Day, the founder of B.A.R.C., said the plan in-

cludes a system in which households with dogs would purchase permits to bring their pets onto the beach, much like permits are now available to allow drivers to come onto the beach. The leash law could be better enforced using this system of "dog permits" as they would be confiscated from owners if a dog is found off a leash on the beach, prohibiting the owner from bringing a dog to the beach for the remainder

of the season. The proposal would provide a way in which only the few dog owners who disregard the leash law would be prevented from bringing their dogs to the beach, allowing responsible owners to enjoy the beach with their dogs.

At a meeting on Thursday, which about 20 people attended, B.A.R.C. also discussed the dog walk planned for Sunday, March 3rd at 1:00 pm. The

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walk will be held at Duxbury Beach, and it will be an opportunity to educate people on the group and their goals, as well as the issue of the ban itself. Water and other supplies will be provided for the dogs and responsible ownership will be emphasized. The rain/snow date for the walk will be the following Sunday, March 10th at 1:00 pm.

Group members handed in petitions at the meeting, which Day will present to the Selectmen along with her proposal. She also hopes that members, and anyone else interested in the issue will contact local and national politicians to put additional pressure on getting the dog ban repealed before it is put into effect on April 1st of this year. A listing of politicians' addresses and much more information can be found on B.A.R.C.'s website, www.save-duxburybeach.org.

The group also set up their next meeting, which will be held Thursday, March 7th at 7:30 pm, location pending. Day emphasizes that anyone interested in the issue is invited to the meetings, residents and non-residents, dog owners and non-owners alike.